

SENATOR SAVAGE: It will raise a little over a million dollars. Part of it goes back to.... Nine million Senator Maresh tells me. It will be distributed back, partially, to the counties.

SENATOR HEFNER: Do you know what percent the counties get? Is it 50 percent?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Maresh can answer that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, it would be the same amount as it presently is. The counties get 23 1/3 percent, the cities 23 1/3 percent, and the state gets the rest.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you. Mr. President, I think we have to consider what the states on the borderlines are getting. South Dakota is charging 8 cents state tax, Iowa is 7 cents. If we raise it a penny we'll be 2 1/2 cents higher than Iowa, and 1 1/2 cents higher than South Dakota. I realize we need more money to keep up our roads. If we do not keep up our roads then we'll have to start from the bottom in repairing these roads and rebuilding them. So I guess I just have to say that I have mixed feelings about this bill. I realize we need extra money, but I don't know how the stations along the Iowa-Nebraska border are going to compete with the Iowa stations. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members. I support this bill. We have no choice, I think, but to vote for it. Increased gas tax just hasn't kept up with increased maintenance costs in the state, and we all know. In fact, it's far behind. Anyone who travels on Interstate 80, for instance, or any other state road realizes this. I see this exactly in the same light that I see building maintenance. The longer you let it go the more it costs. We better get this bill going as soon as possible.

CLERK: Senator Dworak, you're up next. Senator Dworak waives. Senator Koch is up next.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. I want to support this piece of legislation, but I find it very difficult. It is always interesting to me when I hear the various arguments on this floor as to why we need the increased help for certain things. Now we're gun ho on another penny on gasoline because the costs have arisen so rapidly in the last seven years. I can't believe that we can't build highways for the same cost we did seven years ago, I just can't believe that. I just wonder why they can't hold inflation down. You know what I'm talking about, don't you, a couple of you people here. Boy, we're going to give a penny in a hurry, to generate another \$10 million. There is no relationship between highways and education at all, but yet there is because they both deal with a matter that is important to this state as a whole. Then we're going to put it in that very simple formula we have in highway user gasoline tax. I would remind some people here that I'd like to show them that formula, how simple it is. I, for one, would like to have it go back on head count to the various counties, rather than distribute on some reasonable basis and rational basis in terms of where it is needed so the whole state is helped. But I just couldn't resist the oppor-